



Australian National Kennel Council Ltd ABN 77 151 544 679 trading as Dogs Australia

# **Rules for the Conduct of Dances with Dogs Competitions**

**(Encompassing Dances with Dogs Freestyle  
& Heelwork to Music)**

**(Effective from 1st January 2024)**

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**Adopted by the Member Bodies of the  
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# **RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF DANCES WITH DOGS COMPETITIONS (ENCOMPASSING FREESTYLE AND HEELWORK TO MUSIC)**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Dances with Dogs competitions provide handlers and their dogs with an opportunity to demonstrate a skilful, choreographed routine, performed to music.
- 1.2 Dances with Dogs encompasses two separate divisions: (a) Freestyle and (b) Heelwork to Music.
- 1.3 Dances with Dogs has its foundation in traditional obedience heelwork. However, in the discipline of Dances with Dogs, the inclusion of innovative and creative moves, and movement in time to and interpretation of the music are expected.
- 1.4 The discipline requires a good rapport between dog and handler, reflected in a high level of teamwork.
- 1.5 Dances with Dogs performances should have spectator appeal.
- 1.6 In the event that interpretation of these Rules is required, clarification must be sought, in writing, through the relevant Member Body, from the Dances with Dogs Committee of the ANKC, the decision of which will be binding.
- 1.7 Any person making an entry in a Dances with Dogs competition does so at their own risk.
- 1.8 The National Dances with Dogs Committee shall review and may recommend to the ANKC change(s) to these Rules at five-yearly intervals.

## **2.0 DEFINITIONS**

Where referred to in these Rules, the following words will have the meanings assigned to them below:

“Affiliate”: a Member Body of a Canine Control conducting a Dances with Dogs competition.

“ANKC Ltd Member Body” or “Member Body”: the ANKC Ltd Member Body in each State or Territory of Australia.

“Classes”: refers to Starter, Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced classes within a Division.

“Dances with Dogs”: an ANKC approved canine sport which encompasses both (a) Freestyle and (b) Heelwork to Music divisions.

“Freestyle”: a division of Dances with Dogs, in which the dog works off lead and in which the routine will, subject to the provisions of these Rules, encompass a variety of moves, including heelwork and non-heelwork moves to present an interpretation of their music; there is no prescription as to the nature of moves or the level of heelwork required in Freestyle routines.

At any class level a minimum of 70% of a Freestyle routine must consist of freestyle moves; the percentage of freestyle in a routine is based on the time spent undertaking freestyle moves. The remainder of the routine may consist of heelwork.

“Heelwork to Music”: a division of Dances with Dogs in which the dog works off lead in any of the following heel positions, moving at any pace and in any direction:

- (a) Dog on Right Hand Side of handler: 1- facing forwards  
2- facing backwards
- (b) Dog on Left Hand Side of handler 3- facing forwards  
4- facing backwards
- (c) Dog across front of handler: 5- facing left  
6- facing right
- (d) Dog across back of handler: 7- facing left  
8- facing right

The dog must:

- (a) move parallel to the handler in one of the nominated heelwork positions;
- (b) keep the same distance in relation to the handler in all positions;
- (c) move in the same direction as the handler;
- (d) move at the same pace as the handler.

At any class level a minimum of 70% of a Heelwork to Music routine must consist of heelwork, during which the dog’s shoulder must be reasonably close to the handler’s leg; the percentage of heelwork in a routine is based on the time spent undertaking heelwork positions; a routine which contains less than 70% in heelwork will be awarded a non-qualifying score and the result will be recorded as NQ. The remainder of the routine may consist of freestyle. Both the Heelwork to Music and non-Heelwork to Music moves must be taken into account in awarding the score.

### **3.0 DANCES WITH DOGS COMPETITIONS**

The scheduling of any Dances with Dogs competition shall be subject to the approval of the relevant Member Body. An Affiliate conducting a Dances with Dogs competition shall offer all of the titling classes listed in section 3.1 below.

#### **3.1 Titling Classes**

The following titling classes are available in the Freestyle and Heelwork to Music divisions of Dances with Dogs competitions.

##### **3.1.1 Freestyle**

- (a) **FREESTYLE STARTER:** For dogs that have not qualified for the Starter title.
- (b) **FREESTYLE NOVICE:** For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Freestyle Starter’ (FS.S.).
- (c) **FREESTYLE INTERMEDIATE:** For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Freestyle Novice’ (FS.N.).
- (d) **FREESTYLE ADVANCED:** For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Freestyle Intermediate’ (FS.I.).

##### **3.1.2 Heelwork to Music**

- (a) **HEELWORK TO MUSIC STARTER:** For dogs that have not qualified for the Starter title.
- (b) **HEELWORK TO MUSIC NOVICE:** For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Heelwork to Music Starter’ (HTM.S.).

- (c) **HEELWORK TO MUSIC INTERMEDIATE:** For dogs that have qualified for the title of 'Heelwork to Music Novice' (HTM.N.)
- (d) **HEELWORK TO MUSIC ADVANCED:** For dogs that have qualified for the title of 'Heelwork to Music Intermediate' (HTM.I.).

### **3.1.3 Progression through classes**

- 3.1.3.1 A dog shall not be entered for any class in either division without previously having qualified, and an application having been lodged, for the title at the level of the previous class.
- 3.1.3.2 A dog which has gained sufficient Qualifying Certificates for the title of FS.S., HTM.S., FS.N. or HTM.N. shall not be eligible to compete in any further class at that level except in a competition for which entries closed before the final qualification score required for that title was gained.
- 3.1.3.3 At the discretion of the Affiliate's nominee, a competitor who completes the necessary Qualifying Certificates for a title and has applied for that title after the closing of entries may request and be transferred to the next higher class in the relevant division.

A competitor may be required to show proof of application to their relevant Member Body. Evidence of receipt of application from the relevant Member Body is not required.

## **3.2 Non-titling Classes**

An Affiliate conducting a Dances with Dogs competition may, at its discretion, offer non-titling classes.

## **4.0 TITLES**

### **4.1 Qualifying Certificates**

To be awarded a Qualifying Certificate, a competitor must gain the following from at least two of the three judges:

- (a) a score of at least ten (10) points in each of the three (3) judging categories; and
- (b) a total score of at least forty-five (45) points.

### **4.2 Dances with Dogs titles**

- 4.2.1 All dogs eligible to be entered in a Dances with Dogs competition in accordance with these Rules shall be eligible to receive Title Certificates upon meeting the requirements set out in Rule 4.2.2 below.
- 4.2.2 The Member Body will receive applications for the use of the relevant title letters in connection with the name of each dog, when the dog has gained Qualifying Certificates in accordance with the following requirements:
  - (a) 'FS.S' / 'HTM.S' signifying Freestyle Starter/Heelwork to Music Starter in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Starter class in the relevant division, under at least two (2) different Judging Panels.
  - (b) 'FS.N' / 'HTM.N' signifying Freestyle Novice/Heelwork to Music Novice in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Novice class in the relevant division, under at least two (2) different Judging Panels.

- (c) 'FS.I/' 'HTM.I' signifying Freestyle Intermediate/Heelwork to Music Intermediate in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Intermediate class in the relevant division, under at least two (2) different Judging Panels.
- (d) 'FS.A/' 'HTM.A' signifying Freestyle Advanced/Heelwork to Music Advanced in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class in the relevant division, under at least two (2) different Judging Panels.
- (e) 'FS.Ch/' 'HTM.Ch' signifying Freestyle Champion/ Heelwork to Music Champion in connection with, and before the name of, each dog which has gained its FS.A or HTM.A title respectively and thereafter gains a further seven (7) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class in the relevant division, with aggregate scores of 160 points or more, under at least three (3) different Judging Panels.

Those additional seven (7) Qualifying Certificates must include at least three (3) different pieces of music, which may include music used for the Advanced title. Evidence of the use of different pieces of music must be supplied to the Member Body when applying for the Championship title.

- (f) 'FS.Gr.Ch/' 'HTM.Gr.Ch' signifying Freestyle Grand Champion/Heelwork to Music Grand Champion in connection with, and before the name of, each dog which has gained its FS.Ch or HTM.Ch title respectively and thereafter gains a further five (5) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class in the relevant division, with aggregate scores of 165 points or more, under at least two (2) different Judging Panels.

Those additional five (5) Qualifying Certificates must include at least two (2) different pieces of music other than any used for their Advanced or Championship title.

Only Qualifying Certificates gained after 1 January 2024 will be eligible.

4.2.3 The following is a summary of the requirements for titles at each level. Only the highest Dances with Dogs title in each division awarded to the dog must be used in connection with the name of the dog.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Number of certificates</b>	<b>Minimum number of Judging Panels</b>
<b>Starter</b>	FS.S HTM.S	3	2
<b>Novice</b>	FS.N HTM.N	3	2
<b>Intermediate</b>	FS.I HTM.I	3	2
<b>Advanced</b>	FS.A HTM.A	3	2
<b>Champion</b>	FS.Ch HTM.Ch	7 (subsequent to Advanced title) with aggregate scores of 160 points or more and including at least 3 different pieces of music	2
<b>Grand Champion</b>		5 (subsequent to Champion title) with aggregate scores of 165 points or more and including at least 2 different pieces of music not used for Advanced or Champion titles	2

#### 4.2.4 **Application for title**

Applications for all titles must be submitted on the appropriate form, accompanied by the prescribed fee. In the case of applications for Champion and/or Grand Champion titles, evidence of the use of different pieces of music must be supplied to the Member Body when applying for the relevant title. Upon approval by the Member Body, a title certificate authorising the use of the letters concerned will be issued to the applicant.

### 4.3 **Decisions**

- 4.3.1 Decisions of the Committee of the Affiliate conducting any Dances With Dogs competition shall be subject to appeal to the relevant Member Body in accordance with the rules of that Member Body.
- 4.3.2 The rules of the Member Body shall apply to any Dances With Dogs competition and to any Affiliate conducting competitions. In the event of any inconsistency, the Member Body rules shall prevail.
- 4.3.3 Anyone taking part in a competition who openly impugns the actions or decisions of the Judging Panel shall render themselves liable to be debarred from further participation in the competition and may be ordered from the grounds and further dealt with in accordance with the rules of the relevant Member Body.

### 5.0 **RINGS**

- 5.1 Except with the approval of the relevant Member Body, the ring shall be a minimum of 12m by 15m or an area of 180sq metres. Dimensions of the ring must be stated in the Schedule.
- 5.2 Where competitions are held indoors, the floor must have or be covered with a non-slip surface.
- 5.3 Ropes or markers indicating the ring perimeter must be highly visible to competitors and the Judging Panel and not obscure the Judging Panel's vision of competitors.
- 5.4 All ring equipment necessary for the proper conduct of a competition shall be provided by the Affiliate conducting the competition.
- 5.5 A distance of at least one (1) metre from the ring perimeter is to be cordoned-off. Spectators must remain outside the cordoned area.
- 5.6 The allocated judging area must be separated from all spectators.
- 5.7 The ring entrance and competitor assembly area must be kept free from spectators throughout the competition.
- 5.8 Dogs, other than exhibits, must not be within four (4) metres of the competition ring perimeter.
- 5.9 The ring may be available for access by all competitors and their dogs prior to commencement of the competition, as advised by the Competition Manager or nominee in consultation with the Judging Panel.
- 5.10 No dog or handler shall be permitted to enter the competition ring after the Judging Panel has confirmed the suitability of the ring, except for the purpose of competition.
- 5.11 Once a competitor has exited the ring, the next competitor may use food, a training toy or motivator up to the ring entrance.



- 5.12 No food, training toy or motivator shall be left within six (6) metres of the competition ring.
- 5.13 No items of any kind shall be thrown by any person into the ring at any time during a competition.

## **6.0 EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS**

### **6.1 Eligibility of exhibits**

Dances with Dogs competitions are open to dogs that are:

- (a) registered with the relevant Member Body;
- (b) 12 months of age or over on the first day of a sanctioned event which includes a Dances with Dogs competition.

### **6.2 Entries**

- 6.2.1 All entries must be made in a format providing the required data as per the example at Appendix B and in accordance with the Member Body rules and the timelines published in the Schedule.
- 6.2.2 A separate entry form must be submitted for each entry as scheduled.
- 6.2.3 A dog may be entered in both Freestyle and Heelwork to Music divisions, but shall be entered in only one class within a division.
- 6.2.4 A dog with an Intermediate title in a division may only compete in either Intermediate or Advanced class within that division at the one competition.
- 6.2.5 A dog may be entered in both titling and non-titling classes when the latter are offered by the Affiliate conducting the competition.

### **6.3 Music and costume**

- 6.3.1 Music in the public domain is acceptable and encouraged, provided it is not offensive or sexually suggestive in language. Competitors may obtain their music by creating it new, purchasing it, or receiving it free. Competitors do not need to hold music licenses for routines entered in Member Body events<sup>1</sup>.
- 6.3.2 Costume, music and/or routine must not be offensive or sexually suggestive in language or presentation. Violations of this rule shall result in the routine being disqualified.
- 6.3.3 Competitors must wear some type of appropriate<sup>2</sup> footwear that complies with the safety requirements of the Member Body.
- 6.3.4 All handlers are responsible for providing the Music Steward with one (1) copy of their music, labelled with competitor's name, division, class, music selection and duration, at least thirty minutes before commencement of the competition. Music must be in a suitable audio format as specified in the competition schedule.
- 6.3.5 Music checks will be available before commencement of the competition. Handlers are responsible for the quality of recorded material.

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<sup>1</sup> Responsibility for obtaining music licences will rest with the relevant Member Body or Affiliate.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes thongs, scuffs and bare feet

- 6.3.6 At the discretion of the Affiliate, a competitor may change the details of the music (the music selection/title, duration etc) at the point of registration. Details of the change must be provided to other relevant officials at the competition and be recorded on the marked catalogue submitted to the relevant Member Body.
- 6.3.7 Once handlers have provided their music to the Music Steward and the music check has been completed, the music must remain with the Music Steward until completion of at least that class of the competition.
- 6.3.8 Handlers are responsible for the collection of their music at the end of the competition.

#### **6.4 Registration and attendance**

- 6.4.1 Handlers are responsible for registering their presence with the Secretary or nominee prior to the commencement of the competition, as specified in the Schedule.
- 6.4.2 The handler and dog shall be available to the ring steward at the conclusion of the routine of the competitor prior to them.

#### **6.5 Welfare of Dogs**

- 6.5.1 All handlers whose dogs are entered at a Member Body sanctioned event shall take all reasonable steps to ensure the needs of their dog are met and shall not put their dog's health or welfare at risk by any action, default, omission or otherwise.
- 6.5.2 Exhibits may be required to be inspected in accordance with the requirements of the relevant Member Body.
- 6.5.3 Listed below are those areas of which the handler must be aware when performing a routine. Where any of these areas are not adhered to the judging panel will order the performance to stop and the Handler to exit the ring:
- a) The routine emphasises the qualities of the dog (breed, personality, physical abilities, mental abilities, etc.). The handler has considered the dog's body structure and temperament while choosing the moves. The dog's physical and mental characteristics are portrayed positively in the routine.
  - b) Health and safety of the dog. When putting together a routine, the handler has considered the capabilities of the dog and does not demand of it anything that would cause it harm or discomfort. The dog is physically and mentally able to easily perform all the moves asked. None of the moves are repeated excessively or performed for substantial periods at a time. The handler has taken into consideration the surface of the ring and the speed of the dog when choreographing their routine. The dog must appear stable and in control of its body when performing any moves.

It is important that no moves in DWD be used that may cause an injury to the dog. Any moves that are unsafe for the dog's structure and conformation must be avoided and must be penalised by the immediate removal of the dog from the ring.

The following are examples of moves which are likely to be unsafe, including but not limited to:

- the dog balanced on handler's shoulders while the handler is standing
- dog standing on hindlegs for more than 30 seconds at any one time during the routine

- the dog being carried on the handler's back while the handler is upright and being asked to jump off while the handler is upright
  - a head stand (also known as tripod) or any variation of it, whereby the dog is balanced on his nose and front feet with his back feet off the ground
  - a hand stand or any move where the dog is independently balanced on his front feet, either moving or statically
  - the dog sitting on the handler's upturned feet or performing any other behaviour in that position, and having no contact with the floor
  - forward or backward roll/somersault (e.g., where the dog turns head over heels in the air or on the ground and lands or finishes on their feet)
  - other moves which may be viewed as potentially harmful or injurious to the dog.
- c) Props are stable and without any obvious danger so that the moves can be performed safely.
- d) The handler's costume and the handler's movement are also safe for the dog. The dog does not show sign of excessive stress or significant signs of physical exertion. It is important that the judging panel be able to differentiate between when the dog is over-excited and happy from when the dog is over-excited and stressed and begins to struggle in their confident performance.
- e) Partnership. If the dog struggles in anyway during the routine, the handler must offer support without delay. Companionship is reflected in the atmosphere of the team working together; there is nothing harsh or forceful about the handling; and the team displays mutual respect towards one another. In the case of injury, if the dog is injured during the routine, the nominated head judge can stop the routine. The judging panel may discuss on how to proceed in each individual case.

## **6.6 Bitches in Oestrus**

Bitches in oestrus or showing a coloured discharge of any sort shall not be permitted to compete in any competition or to remain within the precincts of the competition venue.

## **7.0 REMOVAL OF A DOG**

- 7.1 Any dog that attacks or displays aggressive behaviour towards any person or another dog shall be removed and disqualified from all competition on the day, and the matter shall be addressed in accordance with the incident reporting procedures of the Member Body.
- 7.2 The Judging Panel –
- (a) will order the removal from competition of any dog which is deemed disorderly or unmanageable, any handler who interferes wilfully with another competitor or a competitor's dog or whose behaviour is objectionable; and
  - (b) shall exclude or order the removal from competition of any dog which the Judging Panel considers unfit to compete.

## **8.0 WITHDRAWAL OF A DOG**

- 8.1 A competitor may withdraw a dog before or during judging but, following such withdrawal, that handler/dog team will not be able to restart or complete the routine from which they have withdrawn, unless the Judging Panel, in exceptional circumstances, otherwise approves.
- 8.2 If, for any reason, a competitor requests that the music be stopped and that they be allowed to leave the ring, then the competitor is regarded as having withdrawn. A competitor who wishes to withdraw must provide a clear indication of this intention to the judges and to the music steward and must not thereafter continue with the routine.
- 8.3 If a competitor withdraws, no scores will be allocated for any of the scoring categories and the score sheet shall be marked "Withdrawn (W/D)". If a competitor withdraws, no placing shall be awarded to that entry.

## **9.0 THE ROUTINE**

- 9.1 The standard and quality of the work presented by the handler and dog team is expected to be higher for all aspects of the Judge's marking criteria (see Rule 11.3) and must be judged accordingly as they progress through the classes.
- 9.2 The routine must start, continue, and finish within the confines of the ring.
- 9.3 The duration of a routine must be a minimum of one (1) minute and a maximum of four (4) minutes. It is expected that the duration of routines in the lower class levels will be towards the minimum end of the nominated time and towards the maximum end of the nominated time for routines in the higher classes.

The following guidelines regarding the minimum duration of routines are provided for competitors:

Starter	minimum of 1 minute
Novice	minimum of 1 minute 30 seconds
Intermediate	minimum of 2 minutes 15 seconds
Advanced	minimum of 3 minutes.

## **9.4 Dog attire**

- 9.4.1 During the routine, dogs will only wear a decorative/co-ordinated neck collar, scarf and/or fixed collar, or no collar.
- 9.4.2 Dogs will, when entering and exiting the ring, wear a collar or harness with lead attached, or slip lead.
- 9.4.3 Dogs must not wear any kind of shock, prong or pinch collar (made of chain or any other material) anywhere in the precinct of the competition venue,
- 9.4.4 A dog must not be artificially coloured.
- 9.4.5 Non-decorative hair bands (on the head) for long coated dogs are allowed in order to allow the dog to see clearly.

## **9.5 Props and other items**

If props are used, they must be applicable to the interpretation of the music with all the props integrated into the performance. Violation of this rule must result in a one (1) penalty point deduction per prop. Props must not be included or removed from the ring once the routine has commenced. Each Judge must deduct such point(s) in the 'Deductions' section on the score sheet.

## **10.0 COMPETING**

- 10.1 Any person who carries out punitive correction or harsh handling of any dog at any time within the precincts of the competition venue shall be reported and dealt with under the Member Body rules.
- 10.2 Subject to Rule 11.4.4, verbal commands and/or encouragement may be provided by the handler to the dog and must not be penalised at any level.
- 10.2.1 When during a routine a move is required to be repeated, the handler may repeat the chosen cue provided that the dog is obviously performing the behaviour cued. Repeating a cue due to the dog's refusal or inattention is to be marked down in the appropriate Judging Category.
- 10.2.2 Physical touch as encouragement or reward before or after completion of a routine shall not be penalised at any level.
- 10.3 Once a routine has commenced, no substitution of handler is permitted.
- 10.4 Handlers with disabilities may compete, provided such handlers can move about the ring without physical assistance. The use of a wheelchair, crutches or cane is acceptable. The dog is to perform all necessary requirements of their routine as stated in these rules.
- 10.5 At the Judging Panel's discretion, if a dog's performance was prejudiced by peculiar or unusual conditions, the Panel may re-judge the entire routine.
- 10.6 For the duration of the competition, all dogs must be on a lead (or otherwise restrained [e.g. in a crate]) except when competing or practising prior to the competition. Dogs will enter and leave the competition ring on lead under the control of the handler. At any point after entering the ring, the competitor must remove the lead and place it on the ring perimeter or out of sight. A dog who exits the competition ring off lead at any time shall be penalised, up to disqualification, in accordance with Rule 7 and Rule 11.5.1(b).
- 10.7 The competition Secretary will allocate handlers a competition number for each entry submitted. Handlers are not required to wear numbers during competition. Numbers and names of the handler and dog, together with other relevant information, will be listed in the competition catalogue and the name of the handler and dog will normally be announced as they enter the ring. Other on-site displays of names of competitors and their dogs are permissible.

## **11.0 JUDGES AND JUDGING**

### **11.1 Composition of Judging Panels**

- 11.1.1 Each class in a titling Dances with Dogs competition will be judged by a Judging Panel comprised of three licensed Judges.
- 11.1.2 Persons participating in a Judging Panel at any titling Dances with Dogs competition must have been approved by the relevant Member Body for judging at the relevant level.
- 11.2 Competitors are under the jurisdiction of the Judging Panel the entire time they are in the competition ring, not just during the performance of the routine.

### **11.3 Judges' marking criteria**

Each judge must mark all three sections (unless a dog is disqualified or withdrawn) of the Judging criteria on the Judge's Mark Sheet (Appendix A) as follows:

- (a) Routine Content – 20 points
  - (i) Variety of moves/ positions.
  - (ii) Degree of difficulty in respect of the type of moves/positions.
- (b) Technical Merit – 20 points
  - (i) Accuracy and fluency of positions/ moves.
  - (ii) The extent of mistakes and/or refusals.
- (c) Musical Interpretation – 20 points
  - (i) Interpretation of the music, reflecting rhythm and phrasing of the music in changes and moves.  
Apparent and flowing choreography and use of available space.
  - (ii) Level of teamwork, harmony and relationship demonstrated between the dog and handler.  
Natural and willing manner of working demonstrated by the dog.
  - (iii) Extent to which costume is appropriate to and enhances the routine.

#### **11.4 Penalties (Deductions)**

- 11.4.1 The penalties referred to in this rule relate to a deduction from the total score awarded by each individual Judge.
- 11.4.2 Barking must incur a penalty of up to four (4) points, except barking which is cued and is obviously part of a routine. Continuous barking will result in disqualification in accordance with Rule 11.5.1(j).
- 11.4.3 Inclusion in the performance of a prop which is either not applicable to the interpretation of the routine or not integrated into the performance must incur a penalty of 1 point per prop in accordance with Rule 9.3.
- 11.4.4 Physical management, manipulation of the dog or harsh verbal commands or corrections in the competition ring must incur a penalty of up to four (4) points according to the level of management/manipulation or harsh verbals undertaken. Excessive physical management/manipulation or harsh verbal commands must result in disqualification in accordance with Rules 11.5.1(c) and (d).

#### **11.5. Disqualification**

- 11.5.1 The following shall result in disqualification of the dog and handler and their immediate removal from the ring:
  - (a) a dog fouling/eliminating at any point between entering and exiting the ring;
  - (b) the dog and/or handler leaving the ring at any time during their routine, in accordance with Rule 9.2; if a dog or handler accidentally steps outside the ring during a routine they will not be penalised;
  - (c) harsh or punitive treatment of the dog in the competition ring, in accordance with Rule 6.5.1 & 10.1;
  - (d) physical manipulation of the dog in the competition ring;
  - (e) any violation of the rules relating to dog attire or adornment, including artificial colouring;

- (f) costume, music, or routine offensive or sexually suggestive in language or presentation, in accordance with Rules 6.3.1 & 6.3.2;
- (g) using any prop, action or recorded sound in a manner which simulates or portrays threatening, attacking, injuring or otherwise harming the dog or any person;
- (h) use of, or having on the person of the handler, during a performance, any food or training toy of any kind, in accordance with Rule 5.1.2;
- (i) use of any human or animal prop;
- (j) continuous barking;
- (k) a routine which significantly contravenes the time specified in rule 9.3;
- (l) aggressive behaviour by a dog in accordance with Rule 7.1;
- (m) a dog which significantly contravenes Rules 10.6, 7.2 or Rule 11.5.1(b) in regards to not entering or leaving the competition ring on lead under the control of the handler, or which exits the competition ring off lead at any time.

11.5.2 If a competitor is disqualified, no scores will be allocated and the score sheet must be marked "Disqualified (D/Q)".

11.5.3 A Freestyle or Heelwork to Music routine which contains less than 70% in freestyle or heelwork must be awarded a non-qualifying score and the result be recorded as NQ in accordance with the definition of "Freestyle" or "Heelwork to Music" within Rule 2.0.

## **11.6 Marks and placings**

11.6.1 The results for each class, including marks and Judge's name, must be displayed on the day and be accessible to all competitors.

11.6.2 The aggregate score (the sum of all Judges' marking) will determine placings. Qualifying scores take precedence over non-qualifying scores for placings. Competitors that are disqualified are not eligible for a place.

11.6.3 In the event of a tied score with the Heelwork to Music Division, a decision must be on the following criteria:

- (a) Highest total score for Technical Merit; if scores remain tied, use criterion (b).
- (b) Highest score for Musical Interpretation; if scores remain tied, use criterion (c).
- (c) Highest score for Routine Content; if scores remain tied;
- (d) Determined at the discretion of the Judging Panel.

11.6.4 In the event of a tied score within the Freestyle Division, a decision must be on the following criteria:

- (a) Highest total score for Technical Merit; if scores remain tied, use criterion (b).
- (b) Highest score for Routine Content; if scores remain tied, use criterion (c).
- (c) Highest score for Musical Interpretation; if scores remain tied;
- (d) Determined at the discretion of the Judging Panel.

## APPENDIX A: JUDGES' MARK SHEET

<b>Club</b>		<b>Date</b>		
<b>Division</b> Freestyle <input type="checkbox"/> HTM <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Class</b> Starter <input type="checkbox"/> Novice <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Competitor number</b>
<b>Judge</b>		<b>Judge's Signature</b>		
<b>Judging category</b>		<b>Maximum points available</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Sub-total</b>
<b>ROUTINE CONTENT (Max 20)</b>				
Variety of moves/positions		10		
Degree of difficulty in respect of the type of moves/positions		10		
<b>Sub-total Routine Content</b>				
<b>TECHNICAL MERIT (Max 20)</b>				
Accuracy and fluency of positions/moves		10		
<b>Extent of mistakes and /or refusals</b>		10		
<b>Sub-total Technical Merit</b>				
<b>MUSICAL INTERPRETATION (Max 20)</b>				
Interpretation of the music, reflecting rhythm and phrasing of the music in changes and moves. Apparent and flowing choreography and use of the available space		10		
Level of teamwork, harmony and relationship demonstrated between the dog and handler Natural and willing manner of working demonstrated by the dog		8		
Extent to which costume is appropriate to and enhances the routine		2		
<b>Sub-total Musical Interpretation</b>				
<b>Sub Total</b>				
<b>Deductions</b>				
<b>TOTAL</b>				



## APPENDIX B: OFFICIAL DANCES WITH DOGS ENTRY FORM

### (ENCOMPASSING FREESTYLE AND HEELWORK TO MUSIC)

To be held under the Rules and Regulations of the State Member Body

**Note:** Writing must be in ink, and all names of dogs and owners must be in block letters.

Use a separate form for each entry.

\_\_\_\_\_ Club      Date of Competition    /    /  
(Name of club for which entry is made)

**EXHIBITOR'S DECLARATION** I hereby apply to enter the following exhibit in terms of and upon the conditions set out in the State/Territory Member Body's Constitution Rules and Regulations by which I agree to be bound, and I hereby certify to the correctness of the particulars endorsed hereon.

BREED \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF EXHIBIT \_\_\_\_\_

Details of dog entered must be identical with the registration of the Canine Control with which the dog is registered

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Registered No \_\_\_\_\_  
State D or B

Name of Registered Owner/Lessee \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mr, Mrs, Ms, Miss - BLOCK LETTERS please)

\_\_\_\_\_ Membership No \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name of handler (if different from owner/lessee): \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in	Freestyle <input type="checkbox"/>	Starters	Novice	Intermediate	Advanced
Please <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HTM <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Title of Music \_\_\_\_\_

Artist \_\_\_\_\_

Duration of Music \_\_\_\_\_ Minutes & \_\_\_\_\_ Seconds    CD  USB or other\*

I certify that this exhibit has not within a period of three months been in kennels affected with Distemper, Canine Hepatitis, Parvo Virus or any other contagious or infectious disease and that the dog has been vaccinated.

Usual Signature of owner/lessee(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Fees \_\_\_\_\_

Catalogue \_\_\_\_\_

Sundries \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque No. \_\_\_\_\_

\*If permitted in accordance with Schedule.

## **APPENDIX C: GUIDELINES FOR DANCES WITH DOGS SCHEDULES**

Subject to Member Body requirements, published Schedules for Dances with Dogs competitions normally include the following information:

1. The name of the Affiliate conducting the competition.
2. The date and venue at which the competition is to be conducted.
3. Details of the venue (such as whether it is an open or roofed/enclosed area, the surface of the ring [eg grass, carpet etc] and the specific dimensions of the ring).
4. The closing date for entries.
5. The address to which entries must be forwarded.
6. Entry fees.
7. Divisions and classes offered and the members of the Judging Panel(s) for each.
8. Commencing time of registration, submission of music, music checks and judging.
9. Vetting: exhibits may be required to be inspected or vetted.
10. Contact phone number (mobile) for the Affiliate on the day of the competition.
11. Advice on the acceptable audio formats for music at the nominated competition.
12. Such other information specific to the competition as the Affiliate considers appropriate.